



WIND Advisory Committee Meeting Booklet

October 8th, 2024

30  **Years**
Wyoming Institute
for Disabilities

WIND Advisory Committee Function

- 1 Connect WIND to key individuals in the university and in the state who can assist in carrying out WIND's education, research, and service missions;
 - 2 Help WIND expand its resource base;
 - 3 Increase WIND's visibility within the university and within the state to assist WIND in becoming more integrated in both;
 - 4 Advise WIND on overall annual program goals; and
 - 5 Increase disability awareness on campus and throughout the state.
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Background

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities is a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities and an academic unit in the College of Health Sciences, University of Wyoming. Established in 1994, the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities demonstrates excellence in providing interdisciplinary, pre-service education, continuing education, community training, technical assistance, and services as they relate to individuals with developmental and other disabilities.

Mission

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) assists and supports individuals with developmental and other disabilities, their families, and their networks by advancing diversity, equity, full community inclusion, independence, and social participation. Our work is guided by values of service, dignity, collaboration, and innovation.

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Meeting Details

The WIND Consumer Advisory Council meeting and the WIND Advisory Committee Meeting will be held in person on October 8, 2024, at the UW Conference Center, Salon C, located at 2221 E. Grand Avenue in Laramie (located on the west side of the Hilton Garden Inn).



9:30 a.m. - 12:00p.m. - Consumer Advisory Council Meeting



12:00 p.m. - 1:00p.m. - Lunch with Consumer Advisory Council and WIND staff



1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - WIND Advisory Committee Meeting



1:20 pm. - 2:00 p.m. - Discussion with Jim Warne



Consumer Advisory Council Meeting

To join remotely, scan the QR code or visit <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/961-9843-5183>

Meeting ID: 961-9843-5183



WIND Advisory Committee Meeting

To join remotely, scan the QR code or visit <https://uwyo.zoom.us/j/989-7329-5445>

Meeting ID: 989-7329-5445

WIND Consumer Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

October 8, 2024

University of Wyoming Conference Center,
Hilton Garden Inn, Salon B

- 9:30 a.m. ○ Sandy Thiel, Welcome and Introductions
 ○ Roll Call of CAC Members
 ○ Structure of CAC meetings
 ◆ topic introductions-motion-discussion-vote
 ◆ create a CAC Secretary position so that there are formal minutes taken
 ○ Abe Lentner, WIND CAC By-laws and application updates
 ○ CAC Members, Updates
- 10:30 a.m. Break
- 10:45 a.m. Michelle Jarman, presentation of plans for the following:
 ○ Timelines and efforts to increase and regain WIND funding
 ○ Leadership Team roles, responsibilities and CAC interactions
 ○ Update on the Disability Studies program and plan to move forward
- 12:00 p.m. Adjourn and break for lunch with the WIND Advisory Committee
- 1:00 p.m. WIND CAC will join the meeting with the WIND Advisory Committee

Next meeting Tuesday, April 8, 2025, UW Conference Center, Laramie

WIND Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

October 8, 2024

University of Wyoming Conference Center,
Hilton Garden Inn, Salon C

- 12:00 p.m. Lunch with WIND Consumer Advisory Council and WIND staff
- 1:00 p.m. Convene meeting, Michelle Hilaire, Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences
- Welcome
 - Approval of agenda
 - Approval of April 2024 meeting minutes
 - Introductions, including guests, Jim Warne and Melvin Arthur
- 1:15 p.m. Meeting orientation, booklet review and updates, Michelle Jarman
- 1:20 p.m. Discussion with Jim Warne
- UCEDD work in South Dakota
 - Conversation highlights from Wyoming activities
 - ◆ Melvin Arthur, Wind River Cares
 - ◆ Amy Rieser, Senior Project Coordinator, WIND
 - Roundtable discussion
- Brief Break
- 2:00 p.m. University of Wyoming and College of Health Sciences updates, Michelle Hilaire
- 2:10 p.m. WIND Consumer Advisory Council updates, Sandy Thiel, Chair
- 2:25 p.m. WIND Updates, Executive Director status
- Staff, CAC, Advisory Council input
 - Discussion
- 2:45 p.m. WIND Annual Report, Executive Summary, Eric Moody
- 3:00 p.m. ECHO, Telehealth, and new initiatives, Canyon Hardesty
- 3:10 p.m. Agency and member updates
- 3:30 p.m. Adjourn / Allow time to get to A&S Auditorium, film screening

Next meeting Tuesday, April 8, 2025, UW Conference Center, Laramie

Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

April 16, 2024

UW Conference Center,
Salon C, Laramie, WY

In attendance, members:

- Danielle Marks
- Ellery Lane
- Feliciano Turner
- Jeff Gardner
- Nicky Harper
- Tiffany Hunt
- Leo Levensgood
- Chele Porter
- Kylie Porter
- Shannon Buller
- Amy Burns
- Angel Thomas
- Sandy Theil
- Christina McDonnell
- Shirley Pratt
- Lori Regnier
- Brandon Douglas
- Alyeta Zimmerman
- Jennifer Cave
- Julie Andrew
- Samantha Andrew
- Abe Lentner

In attendance, WIND:

- Sherrill Smith, for CHS
- Sandy Root-Elledge
- Michelle Jarman
- Eric Moody
- Canyon Hardesty
- Sandy Hubert
- Emily Kirsch
- Kayleigh Edgar

Meeting called to order at 1:03 by Sherrill Smith, Dean of the School of Nursing, who was representing the CHS Interim Dean. The meeting agenda and minutes from the prior meeting were approved with no changes. Introductions were made. During introductions, Kylie Porter made a special tribute to Sandy Root-Elledge's years of service, with flowers.

Meeting orientation, booklet review, Michelle Jarman

- Highlights ECHO Excellence Award, student profiles, directory updates

University of Wyoming and College of Health Sciences updates, Sherrill Smith

- March 25th, Michelle Hilaire was appointed Interim Dean of the College of Health Sciences
- WWAMI Director search is ongoing, three candidates scheduled to visit
- PA Director search is open; goal is to have this position filled and on campus by fall
- Student success is still a huge priority, with support such as food pantry, mental health

WIND Consumer Advisory Council Report by Sandy Thiel, Chair

The CAC is working hard. They are working on to support the 5-year plan, with emphasis on DEI and transportation. They have taken on leadership of the Keith A. Miller award, with Chele Porter chairing the committee. Internally, they are working on a formal bylaw review. Specific issues they are addressing:

- Marriage Equality, HR 5408, SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act
 - Transportation: Leo Levengood has taken the lead on establishing the Lions Disability Transportation Services, focused now on Laramie county with goal to expand across the state
-

WIND Status Report, ACL Mid-year Progress Report (slides presented)

- Historical context & transition, Sandy Root-Elledge
 - ◆ Mandated role of UCEDD; core functions; history of CAC & Advisory councils; threats and impacts of former dean's actions; advocacy from CAC, this group, and community partners
 - Ongoing concerns & moving forward, Michelle Jarman
 - ◆ Addressing ACL concerns; increasing support and addressing ongoing concerns at UW; stabilizing WIND; strengthening relationships with state partners, national collaborators and funders; leadership transition
-

Brief updates on related initiatives:

- Telehealth, Canyon Hardesty
 - ◆ Telehealth is still a WIND project; with USDA and foundation funding, currently working to expand access across the state by providing equipment and space in local libraries
 - ◆ Telehealth consortium is mandated; WIND continued to pursue telehealth funding and telehealth opportunities within the CHS and state
 - WIND 5-Year Planning Process, Eric Moody
 - ◆ 5-year plan was crucial to protecting our programs and the UCEDD;
 - ◆ We are now in the early stages of a new plan, which will take place over the next 2 years:
 - 3 phase processes
 - Data sets (40) national - Wyoming data
 - Interviews, needs assessments, focus groups
-

Advisory Council Composition, Sandy Root-Elledge

- From group discussion on concerns and opportunities:
 - ◆ What will happen to the DS minor program; Michelle J responded that we would need new faculty;
 - ◆ Suggestion: CAC needs to be involved in search for the new Dean
 - ◆ Advisory council support to educate people about what the UCEDD does and WIND's role
 - ◆ Raising awareness to individuals across the state
 - ◆ Look at bylaws
-

WIND 30th Anniversary Celebration, Emily Kirsch

- WIND 30th anniversary website overview
 - October WIND 30th Anniversary events overview
-

Agency and member updates

- **Nicky Harper:** April 30th deadlines for technology grants
- **Shirley Pratt:** DD advisory council is looking for a self-advocate
- **Bill McDonald:** Will not be at the WIND 30th, supporting his son
- **Amy burns:** WY Independent living is wrapping up second offering of the Friendships & Dating program. They are hosting workshop in collaboration with WIND, Living Well in the Community, in May. They are offering a peer advocate conference in Casper – scholarships are available.
- **Shannon Buller:** DD Conference will be in Cheyenne, Red Lion Inn, September 18-20th. She also wants people to be aware of a newly developed website for alternatives to guardianship – Wyoming Resource Center for Self-Determination.
- **Lori Regnier:** Protection & Advocacy Systems is running commercials and radio spots around the state to increase voter outreach, address questions, and support individuals.
- **Chele Porter:** WATR's AT Awareness day events; Join WATR team and supporters May 15th at 9am signing of the proclamation
- **Canyon:** AT awareness day; social work students have been supporting our work – monitoring policy discussions that will impact health and community inclusion; working on post-secondary education planning
- **Jeff Gardner:** No updates

Adjourn 3:20pm

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Wyoming Institute for Disabilities

Five Year Plan, 2022-2027

Abstract

The Wyoming Institute for Disabilities at the University of Wyoming will improve the education, early intervention, health and wellness, employment, and assistive technology outcomes of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families throughout the five-year project period, 2022-27. Our mission is to assist individuals with developmental and other disabilities and their families by promoting and supporting full community inclusion, community membership, independence, productivity, and social participation.

Project goals include

- 1) providing interdisciplinary, family curriculum in leadership;
- 2) educating undergraduate and graduate students in disability studies;
- 3) providing training to professionals and communities;
- 4) providing best-practices-based services;
- 5) conducting basic and applied research, and evaluation and/or public policy analysis;
- 6) disseminating knowledge-based and accessible information; and 7) ensuring our business practices support diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Anticipated outcomes related to the goals include increasing:

- 1) the percentage of URLEND and Disability Studies students from underrepresented populations;
- 2) the knowledge, attitude, and skills of undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students;
- 3) the number of faculty engaged in the disability studies academic program;
- 4) the number of collaborations in Wyoming, other states, and globally;
- 5) knowledge, skills, and use of best practices among professionals;
- 6) diversity among trainees;
- 7) telehealth capacity in Wyoming;
- 8) the number of topics for which technical assistance is provided;
- 9) the number research proposals, funding awards and dissemination of findings;
- 10) engagement of our Consumer Advisory Council with program development, implementation, and evaluation;
- 11) the number of accessible products produced and disseminated; and
- 12) procurement and dollars awarded to contractors from underserved populations.

New WIND Staff

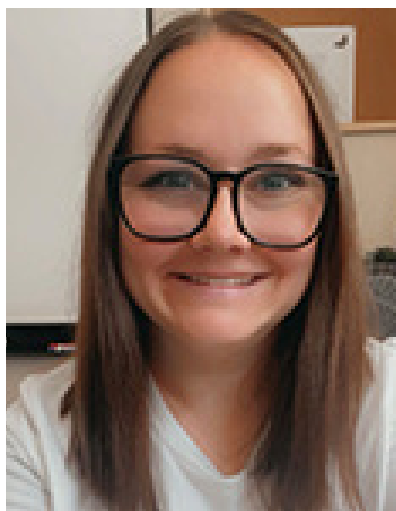


Rebecca Austin, BFA Marketing & Communications Specialist

Rebecca Austin has been working in the art field for as long as she can remember. With parents working in graphic design and behavioural analysis, it was serendipitous that she was hired at WIND. She completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Wyoming, getting a BFA in Graphic Design. She is currently a graduate working on her Master's degree in the Learning Design and Technology program where she hopes to take her love for art and science and gamify it for all audiences.

Claire Barrile, RN, MSN Research Associate II

Claire Dinneen Barrile has over seven years of clinical experience supporting patients to navigate the healthcare system. After completing her undergraduate degrees in French and Microbiology at the University of Wyoming, she attended Johns Hopkins University to obtain her masters in Nursing Science in 2020. After three and a half years of patient care as a registered nurse in Wyoming, Claire joins the Research and Evaluation team at WIND where she applies her direct patient care experience by including patients, families, care givers, and health professionals in the research process using Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) methods.



Allyson Lehr

Allyson grew up in Colorado but has called Wyoming her home for over ten years. She worked as direct support staff in multiple settings around Laramie before completing her bachelor's degree in May of 2022 from the University of Wyoming in human development and family sciences with a minor in aging studies. She then graduated with her master's degree in social work from the University of Wyoming in May of 2024. During her time in the master's program, she was an intern at Iverson Memorial Hospital and the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities.



Kaitlyn Brandenburg

Kaitlyn is a current student at the University of Wyoming studying Agricultural Communications, intending on graduating in the Fall of 2024. She began working at WIND as an office aide in the Summer of 2024. Recently, she has also become WIND's Marketing and Communication intern. She helps us run the front reception, works directly with all of our program's team leads, and assists on projects for our Marketing and Communication Specialist. Outside of work and school, she strives to be involved and a light in her community. She is a part of the 2024 University of Wyoming Collegiate Meat Judging Team, a campus ministry called Campus Ventures, and many clubs like University of Wyoming Collegiate Lamb Growers, Food Science Club, and University of Wyoming Collegiate Farm Bureau.

Stephanie Wodahl

Stephanie Wodahl is our new Education and Family Support Program Manager. She comes to WIND from Albany County School District #1 as she was a Special Education teacher for 26 years. She has taught at the elementary, middle school and high school levels in Special Education, working in resource rooms, co-taught settings and most recently with students with significant cognitive disabilities. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from Chadron State College in 1995, special education certification from the University of Wyoming in 1998 and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from UW in 2014. Stephanie is also a National Board Certified teacher in Exceptional Needs.



While at WIND she will be working on IPSE (Inclusive Post Secondary Education) programs to include launching a Think College program on campus which allows students with intellectual and developmental disabilities to attend college. She is looking forward to reconnecting with former students and families in this role.

WIND Project Directory

Addressing Bias in Gold-Standard Autism Assessments to Improve the Early Identification of Young Black and Latinx Children

Eric Moody, Brian Barger (GSU)

With the help and support of NIH and GSU, this initiative aims to tackle bias in goldstandard autism assessments. With a dedicated focus on improving early identification for young Black and Latinx children, the project strives to pave the way for more accurate, inclusive diagnostic practices, ensuring every child receives timely and equitable support on their developmental journey.

Disability Studies Program: Undergraduate Minor

Michelle Jarman, Vik Peer, and Jess Cowing (Part-Time Distance Instructors)

Disability studies is a diverse interdisciplinary field that investigates broad questions about the nature, meanings, and consequences of disability from interrelated social, historical, cultural, and political perspectives. The undergraduate minor in Disability Studies examines disability issues from multiple theoretical frameworks.

Equality State Research Network (ESRN)

Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty, Tai Baker, Amy Rieser, Liberty Hicks

The Equality State Research Network (ESRN) is a statewide network committed to engaging in community-based research to improve the overall health of Wyoming residents. The ESRN incorporates community engagement, quality improvement, and scientific inquiry.

Friendships and Dating

Canyon Hardesty, Amy Rieser, Emily Kirsch

WIND's Sexual and Reproductive Health Training for Individuals with Disabilities is designed to decrease rates of pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections (STI), and interpersonal relationship violence and measure changes in relationships and social networks among individuals with disabilities.

Functional Assessment of Standardized Items (FASI)

Eric Moody, Dawn Rudolph

The Wyoming Department of Health (WDH), Division of Healthcare Financing (DHCF), Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Agency supports over 2,500 participants through three (3) HCBS Waivers. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requires the Agency to conduct initial and annual evaluations of all HCBS waiver participants to determine if individuals require institutional level of care. WIND is exploring the option of using the Functional Assessment of Standardized Items (FASI), identified by WDH as an assessment tool that may meet its primary needs in determining institutional level of care and resource allocation for HCBS waiver participants and NCF Residents.

iCan Connect

Terri Wofford

Wyoming's iCanConnect program provides communications technology free of charge to income eligible people of all ages who have combined vision and hearing loss. This program will distribute communications equipment to qualified individuals and provide equipment installation, training, and support to help recipients make the most of this technology.

Implementing Community Based Telehealth Infrastructure to Expand Healthcare to Vulnerable Populations

Canyon Hardesty

The project supports the establishment of eight (8) community telehealth access sites located at public libraries, UW extension offices, and a local detention center. The equipment purchased for this project will become the property of the community entity (e.g. library, extension office, detention center) where it is installed. Identified sites include three public libraries (Natrona, Park, Sheridan counties), four UW extension offices (Northeast, Southeast, Northwest, Southwest regions) and one detention center (Sweetwater County).

Improving Title X Services for People with Disabilities in Rural Communities

Eric Moody, Tai Baker, Canyon Hardesty

Improving Title X Services for People with Disabilities in Rural Communities is possible with the generous support of INBRE and UNLV. This initiative sets its sights on enhancing Title X services tailored specifically for individuals with disabilities residing in rural communities. With a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility, the project aims to forge pathways towards equitable healthcare access for all, bridging gaps and empowering marginalized populations.

Inventory of Client and Agency Planning (ICAP)

Dawn Rudolph

The ICAP is a standardized measure used by the Wyoming Department of Health to assess adaptive functioning and behavior issues for eligibility in the Developmental Disabilities service system. The Developmental Disabilities Division contracts with WIND to conduct ICAP interviews throughout the state and is responsible for conducting initial, emergency, and continuing eligibility interviews.

Learn the Signs. Act Early -- Ambassador Project

Cari Glantz

The Act Early Ambassador project is designed to develop a network of state-level experts to improve early identification practices. Act Early Ambassadors serve as state liaisons to the "Learn the Signs. Act Early" initiative and work as community champions with programs that serve young children and their parents, such as Head Start and Early Head Start, WIC, home visiting, and others, and health care and childcare professionals to improve early identification of developmental delay and collaborate with state agencies and campaign partners to improve policy and programs for early identification.

Post-Secondary Program Planning

Canyon Hardesty, Michelle Jarman, Eric Moody, Stephanie Wodahl

The purpose of this project is to investigate the feasibility and develop an inclusive post-secondary program, in collaboration with post-secondary partners throughout Wyoming. Faculty and staff at Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) will lead the creation and facilitation of a statewide alliance that will guide the development of a program plan. The plan will be designed to meet the needs of students with ID, as well as be feasible within the institution(s) implementing this program. Planning support funding and collaboration comes from the North Dakota UCEDD.

Project SCOPE

Canyon Hardesty, Eric Moody, Tai Baker, Amy Rieser

Project SCOPE: Supporting Children of the OPIoid Epidemic, aims to train providers nationwide in evidence-based practices for supporting children and families affected by opioid-related issues. WIND collaborates with the Nisonger Center at The Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities for this initiative.

Research and Evaluation

Eric Moody

At the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities, we are committed to the improvement of our programs through continuous evaluation as well as learning how to better improve the lives of those with disabilities through novel, empirical research. WIND's Research and Evaluation team examines important real-world issues through an interdisciplinary lens, combining applied psychological, statistical, educational, medical, and public health approaches to find solutions to these problems.

The Practical Impact of Inequitable Item Responding on the Diagnostic Accuracy of Screening Tools for Identifying Black and Hispanic Children with Autism

Brian Barger (GSU), Eric Moody

With the help and support of NIH and GSU, this project focuses on addressing disparities; this research endeavors to reshape diagnostic protocols for identifying autism in Black and Hispanic children.

TAPDINTO-STEM

Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty, Stephanie Wodahl

The University of Wyoming, through WIND, has received a subaward from NAU via Auburn University, to provide support to STEM students at the University of Wyoming to include those students in data collection to expand efforts to widen pathways for students with disabilities to pursue education in STEM fields.

University of Wyoming ECHO

Canyon Hardesty, Eric Moody, Tai Baker, Cari Glantz, Emily Kirsch, Amy Rieser

UW ECHO networks are hub-and-spoke knowledge-sharing communities led by experienced teams using multi-point videoconferencing to conduct virtual sessions with stakeholders across the state. These virtual learning communities provide educators, service providers, case managers, administrators, families, and others access to expert advice from professionals throughout the state and country, building capacity in home communities to implement best practices and improve outcomes.

Utah Regional Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and Other Disabilities (URLEND)

Canyon Hardesty

LEND is a nationally recognized group of trainees, gaining valuable experience in the disabilities field through participation in the program. URLEND at Wyoming Institute for Disabilities provides leadership and skill-building opportunities for Wyoming graduatelevel pre-professionals and professionals. Each year, student and professional trainees from a variety of health-related disciplines participate in a training program to increase their knowledge and skills in providing services and support to children with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

WIND Consumer Advisory Council

Sandy Hubert

Members of the WIND Consumer Advisory Council, over half of whom are individuals with a disability or family members, consult with the WIND Executive Director regarding the development of the UCEDD's five-year plan, reviews, and comments annually on WIND's progress in meeting the projected goals, and makes recommendations to the WIND Executive Director regarding proposed revisions to the five-year plan.

Wyoming Accessibility Center (WAC)

Canyon Hardesty, Terri Wofford

The Wyoming Accessibility Center (WAC) provides fee-for-services training, technical assistance, services, and assessments to improve the accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

Wyoming Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Clearinghouse

Canyon Hardesty, Shelby Kappler, Krista Zweg

The Wyoming AEM Clearinghouse works with school districts in Wyoming to provide accessible educational materials to students with print disabilities. We are a designated state-authorized user for a federally funded, national repository of accessible educational materials. The Wyoming AEM Clearinghouse can access the repository and provide the source files to districts.

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR)

Canyon Hardesty, Terri Wofford, Gisele Knopf, Shelby Kappler, and Gayl Bowser

Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR) is Wyoming's Assistive Technology Act program, established through the AT Act of 1998, as amended in 2004, to increase awareness and access to assistive technology. WATR provides assistive technology training and technical assistance, public awareness, device loans and device demonstrations.

Wyoming Family to Family Health Information Center (WY F2F HIC)

Eric Moody, Canyon Hardesty, Cari Glantz, Lauren Hult-White

WY F2F HIC helps to provide access to evidence-based health information, support, and training for families of children and youth with special healthcare needs. Through partnerships between families and professionals, it empowers them to make informed health decisions, improving their quality of life and satisfaction with care.

Wyoming Developmental Disabilities Network

Michelle Jarman

The Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, Protection & Advocacy System, Inc., and the Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND) are sister organizations authorized under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act. The Administration on Developmental Disabilities/Administration on Children and Families provides funding to each of these organizations. In Wyoming, the three agencies work together to provide a comprehensive array of support to people with developmental disabilities, family members, providers, and state agencies. This network fosters communication and information exchange among the three organizations. Directors of the three agencies meet quarterly or more to identify and address state priorities, emerging needs, and immediate issues.

Wyoming Technology Access Program (WYTAP)

Terri Wofford, Gisele Knopf

WYTAP is a partnership among Wyoming Assistive Technology Resources (WATR), Wyoming Independent Living, Inc. (WIL), and First Interstate Bank of Laramie to provide a financial loan program for individuals to purchase assistive technology devices and services. WYTAP buys down the interest rate to lower than the current prime rate.

Wyoming Telehealth Network (WyTN)

Canyon Hardesty, Tai Baker, Brittany Brigham

The Wyoming Telehealth Network supports healthcare entities, providers, and specialists to increase access to care and improve health outcomes for Wyoming residents, through professional development, collaboration, and leveraging of telecommunications technology.